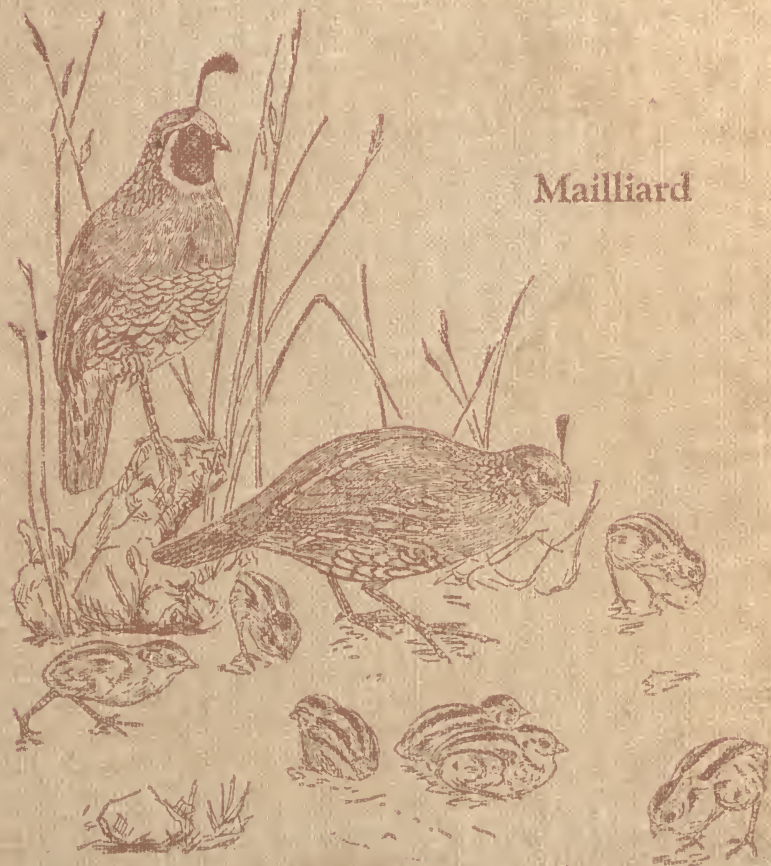


# THE BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

San Francisco

Mailliard



# 30





HANDBOOK  
*of the*  
Birds of  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco

— BY —

Joseph Mailliard, *Curator Emeritus*

DEPARTMENT OF ORNITHOLOGY  
CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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## FOREWORD

Since its development from the sand dune stage, Golden Gate Park has become a well known visiting ground for bird lovers of all ages, for students of our vicinal bird life and for many others who might, with a little encouragement, become bird lovers. Extending from the ocean beach for three miles straight into the city of San Francisco and covering a thousand acres of hill and dale, wood and meadowland, it is a great outdoor aviary, where wild birds are free to come and go.

From time to time records and partial lists of the birds of the Park have appeared, all of limited scope. In recent years, however, there has been a growing demand for a handbook of convenient size that would contain a comprehensive list of the Park birds, accompanied by sufficient description as to enable students and interested visitors readily to determine their species. The present writer was repeatedly asked to undertake this work and finally was prevailed upon to do so, as time and circumstance might permit.

Meanwhile, with the idea of advancing such an undertaking, Miss Cornelia C. Pringle and Mrs. Inez Mexia, members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific, with the assistance of Dr. H. C. Bryant, of the Department of Education of the California Fish and Game Commission, had prepared a manuscript covering notes, records of and references to birds found in the Park, and containing many suggestions in regard to the arrangement and grouping of the subjects involved, the stressing of certain features, etc., as brought out in their experiences while accompanying field parties of students and visitors. This paper was most kindly turned over to the present writer, who greatly appreciates the assistance that it has been to him. In addition to this, Mr. Frank Tose, Group Artist and Chief of Exhibits of the California Academy of Sciences, generously offered to try his hand at some line drawings for illustrations.



This offer was gratefully accepted and Mr. Tose, assisted by his son, Cecil, who did most of the ink work as well as some of the drawing, supplied the illustrations for the ninety-four cuts accompanying the descriptions in this handbook.

With the combination of concise description, illustration, and the information on the opposite page, the author hopes that those who use this booklet will find sufficient assistance to enable them, after a little practice, to identify the birds that they may see in the Park, and to recognize these species wherever they meet them in the San Francisco Bay region.

The idea intended to be conveyed is that of birds as seen in the field rather than in the hand; the description of the "field marks" are set forth in simple language and many minor details are omitted for the sake of brevity and to avoid confusion in a beginner's mind. Color patterns, dark and light markings, etc., can, of course, in the ink drawings only be indicated by shading varied in kind or intensity, but careful reading of the accompanying description should fix the color in the observer's mind. In some cases the position of a bird is slightly distorted in order to show as many field marks as possible. The length of each species follows the technical name, extreme measurements being given for birds that vary greatly in size, and for the others average measurement only. The suggestion is offered that observers will find it of much benefit to familiarize themselves with the sense of measurement of birds as seen at varying distances.

The reader is to understand that the descriptive matter applies to the male of a species unless otherwise specified, and that the drawing is always of a male. To avoid possible confusion and to save space, description of young and immature birds has mostly been omitted. On account of the great divergence of opinion among leading authorities in regard to a correct way of doing so, no attempt has been made to express



bird notes by spelling them, except in a few cases where the ideas of other authorities coincide with those of the present writer. In most cases it simply cannot be satisfactorily done!

Among the suggestions in the manuscript above mentioned was that of grouping the birds under headings indicating where each species is most apt to be found in the Park, and this plan has been adopted. Where a species is commonly found in more than one association the name only is given under the *less* likely heading, followed by a reference to the page, under the *more* likely heading, where it is described.

The capital letters following the names in the index supply a quick method of finding out the season of year in which a bird may be found in the Park; explanation of these letter symbols is given in a heading.

With no way of knowing how great might be the demand for such a handbook as this, it was decided to try to raise money among the Academy's membership for the publication of a limited edition and to sell the book, at a price within the reach of all, so as to enable the Department of Ornithology to maintain a revolving fund for further editions if a demand were forthcoming.

With the sincere thanks of this department to those friends of the Academy whose generosity made this plan a reality, this Handbook of the Birds of Golden Gate Park is now made available for the use of those who may be interested in the subject.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WILD BIRDS SEEN ON LAKES

#### COMMON LOON

*Gavia immer* (Brünnich).—28-36 in.

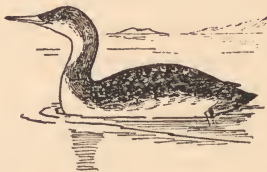
Large-bodied, neck long, slender. In winter, above dark (brownish-to slaty-gray), back with slight scaly effect; below white. In summer, head and neck purplish black, green-glossed; throat and side of neck with bars of white streaks; back patterned with white spots; wing white-specked. Bill long, pointed, dark above. Diver.



#### RED-THROATED LOON

*Gavia stellata* (Pontoppidan).—24-27 in.

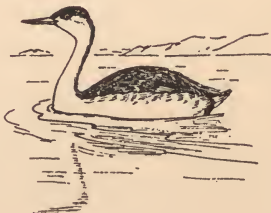
In winter, top of head and hind neck blackish, white-streaked; rest of upper parts grayish to brownish dusky, white-specked; below white. In summer, side of head and neck plain gray, throat with rich brown patch running down fore neck. Bill long, pointed, dark above. Diver.



#### WESTERN GREBE

*Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence).—24-29 in.

In winter, above brownish slate, darkest on top of head and hind neck; below satiny white, including side of both neck and head; wings with white patch, showing well in flight. In summer, top of head and narrow line down hind neck black. Neck very long and slender. Bill long, sharp, slender. Diver.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

In summer easy to identify; in winter absence of white on upper parts restricts field characters to large size of bird, great length of neck, general form, plumage dark above and white below, and habit of diving frequently. In spite of rather small wings has rapid flight, and its quickness of action when diving is remarkable for so large a bird. Has a piercing, wailing call and also one that sounds like a long, wild sort of laugh, both calls startling when heard in wild country. Nests on northern lakes.

*Winter. Occasional visitor. Spreckels and North lakes.*

Smaller than last and slighter in form, but larger bodied than any of the grebes. Easy to identify in summer plumage by rich brown patch on throat and fore neck. Back lighter in shade than that of preceding species and in winter white-specked. Nests in the far north, but often noted on San Francisco Bay in winter. Has been seen on Park lakes in beginning of spring, then showing partly summer plumage.

*Winter. Occasional visitor. Spreckels and North lakes.*

The length and slimness of neck, all satiny white except for a narrow strip on the hind part, are of great assistance in identifying this grebe. A very quick diver, able, as are all the divers, to swim a long distance under water. If alarmed by an observer, but not *quickly startled*, it slowly sinks out of sight, without leaving a ripple on the water, and swims away. In summer feathers of head are longer than in winter, giving a sort of puffy effect, but not forming a crest. Nests in northeastern California and northward.

*Winter. Occasional visitor. Lakes containing fish.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### HOLBOELL GREBE

*Colymbus holboelli* (Reinhardt).—18-20 in.

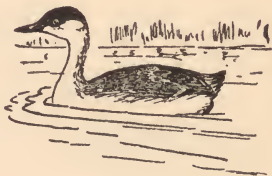
In winter, blackish gray above, brownish on wings; throat and side of head white; neck, except on back, brownish gray; rest of lower parts white, slightly spotted with gray. Wing with white patch

showing when opened. In summer, darker above and neck reddish-brown. Bill shorter and heavier than preceding, dusky above, but mostly yellowish. Diver.

### AMERICAN EARED GREBE

*Colymbus nigricollis californicus* (Heermann).—13 in.

In winter, upper part of head, back of neck and rest of upper parts dusky; below white except on fore neck and at extreme rear; wings with white patch. In summer, head and neck black, tuft of silky, yellowish brown feathers each side of head; below white except sides brown. Bill black, flattish, slender, much shorter than last.



### PIED-BILLED GREBE

*Podilymbus podiceps* (Linnaeus).—13½ in.

Above dusky brown; chin whitish, fore neck light brownish; below silvery white, mottled on sides with dusky gray, more grayish rearward. In summer, color of upper parts blacker; chin and throat black. Bill short, heavy, in winter dark above, yellow below; in summer whitish, crossed by black band. Diver.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

*Much smaller than Western Grebe, with relatively shorter neck, and body of much stouter build. In early spring commences to assume summer plumage and very easy to identify by color markings. In winter may be distinguished from Western Grebe by gray of neck as well as by relative size. Much larger than the following species and with much thicker neck. Nests north of United States, wintering along this coast to Monterey Bay.*

*Winter.            Rare visitor.            Stow or Spreckels lakes.*

Smallest of our grebes and difficult to distinguish in winter from the Horned Grebe, from which it then differs principally in having the bill sligher and *flatter at base*, in having more gray on neck and side of head, and neck more slender. (Horned Grebe has not yet been recorded in Park.) Common in winter on sloughs and ponds of Bay region and breeds in this state. Remarkably quick diver. If shot at, usually is beneath water before shot reaches it, unless close at hand.

*Winter.                            Common.                            Lakes.*

Small but stockier in build than the Eared Grebe and easily distinguished by its brown color in winter and by the black on chin and throat in summer, at any season by its short, rather stubby bill. The very young birds are dark, with four whitish stripes above; streaked on head and neck with white. Builds floating nest among tules, covering eggs with decaying vegetation when it leaves nest. Has a number of different calls and notes, some of them quite weird.

*Resident.                            Common.                            All lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN

*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus* Ridgway.—4½ ft.

In winter, head and neck white, more or less tinged with yellow; upper parts light brownish gray, more or less streaked with darker brown and silvery white; below grayish brown. In summer, with chestnut tuft on nape, head more yellowish; hind neck chestnut to dark brown; pouch reddish. Bill huge, with great pouch below it.



### MALLARD

*Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos* Linnaeus.—23 in.

Male, head and neck metallic green, narrow white collar; back brownish to light grayish; rump and upper tail coverts black, central feathers of latter curved upward; breast deep chestnut, rest below mostly gray; tail white, with black above and below. Female, mottled brown and buffy, darkest above. Speculum iridescent blue in both sexes. Bill long, wide, olive yellow; feet orange.



Speculum is a term used for the band of white or colored, usually iridescent, feathers in center of wing of many ducks. There is no other word to be used in place of it.

### BALDPATE (Widgeon)

*Mareca americana* (Gmelin).—20 in.

Male, forehead and crown white, metallic green area back of eye; rest of head and neck speckled; back dark pinkish gray, finely penciled with dusky and white; wing dark, with white patch and green speculum; breast and flank pinkish brown; below white except black under tail. Female, head and neck speckled; except for white belly mostly mottled brownish; speculum black, white-bordered. Bill bluish, black-tipped.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Its large size and huge bill make a pelican extremely easy to identify and this species is readily distinguished from the White Pelican by its color, except, possibly when quite young. The immature of the Brown Pelican is whitish below and brownish on neck. Flies by giving a few flaps of the huge wings and then sailing for a space. Often sails over water and plunges after fish, frequently going clear under. Common along shore and at times inside the bay, but seldom comes into park. Nests on southern islands off California coast.

*Fall or winter.*

*Casual.*

*Chain of lakes.*

Best known large, fresh-water duck, as our commonest barnyard duck is a domesticated form of this species, many individuals being difficult to distinguish by plumage alone from the wild Mallard. Tamest duck in Park, many coming at call when offered bread, etc. Feeds in shallow places by tipping head and neck into water, tail pointing skyward. In midsummer male loses bright plumage and resembles female. Ducklings are a common sight in spring and early summer, but many are destroyed by enemies, such as cats, dogs, etc. Usually seen in pairs.

*Resident.*

*Abundant.*

*All lakes.*

The *male* is very easy to identify by its field marks but the *female* is less so, though the white on wing, black speculum, more brownish back and reddish brown on flanks fairly well separate it from females of other species of ducks found in Park; also head and bill are shorter than with either Pintail or Mallard. Male has a very distinctive whistled call of three syllables, somewhat resembling call of Olive-sided Flycatcher. Several females are apt to be seen to one male.

*Winter.*

*Common.*

*All lakes.*

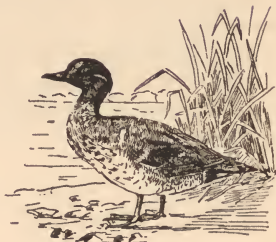


## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### GREEN-WINGED TEAL

*Nettion carolinensis* (Gmelin).—13½ in.

Head and neck mostly chestnut; metallic green band from eye to black tuft on hind neck; back, flank and lower neck finely waved dusky and whitish; breast buffy, dark-spotted; white cross bar at shoulder; speculum bright green; belly whitish. Female without bright color except green speculum; above dusky, mottled; below whitish. Bill black.



### SHOVELLER (Spoonbill)

*Spatula clypeata* (Linnaeus).—19 in.

Head and neck blackish, green-glossed; middle back dusky, flanked with white; breast white; rest of lower parts dark chestnut except black and white under tail; upper wing light blue; speculum metallic green. Tail dark green, white-edged. Female, mottled brown and dusky; wing as of male but duller. Bill long, black, broad-ended; feet orange.



### PINTAIL (Sprig)

*Dafila acuta tzitzihua* (Vieillot).—28 in.

Head, throat, upper fore-neck dark brown; hind neck black, bordered by white stripe; back brownish-gray and white, finely penciled; lower neck and lower parts white, finely penciled on sides and rear; tail long, pointed, mostly black; wing drab, upper part deep black and white-streaked; speculum bronzy, white edged. Female dusky and light, mottled. Bill long, narrow, black.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

One of our smallest ducks and most widely distributed. Prefers fresh water to salt and small to larger bodies of water, feeding in shallow places by "tipping," much like the Mallard. In flight one of the swiftest ducks and the quickest in turning, twisting, rising perpendicularly from water, etc. The male is easily recognized by small size and prominent field marks; *green* speculum, with black above and below and buffy bar in front. Call of male is a flute-like whistle; also keeps up constant peeping sound while feeding.

Winter.                      Occasional.                      Stow and Middle lakes.

Its many contrasting colors and size and shape of *wide-tipped* bill, make the male easy to recognize, yet perhaps confusable with Mallard at long range. The female may be identified by bill and by *light blue* on upper wing, combined with the *green, white bordered speculum*, like that of male but duller. Feeds in shallow water, dabbling in mud or swimming low and dabbling along surface, skimming the water for small plant or animal life. Formerly abundant in Park, but now rare.

Winter.                      Occasional.                      Middle and Stow lakes.

Fairly large fresh-water duck, with *neck* and *bill* long and slender. Male easily identified by shape and markings, especially by the long, slender, central pair of tail feathers, from which name originates. The female is something like a Mallard, but smaller, much more slender, longer necked and with *speculum* dull brown, only a little lighter than rest of wing. The long neck enables this duck to feed without having to tilt up behind so much as do other ducks that feed in shallow water.

Winter.                      Common.                      Middle and Stow lakes.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### CANVASBACK

*Marila valisineria* (Wilson).—22 in.

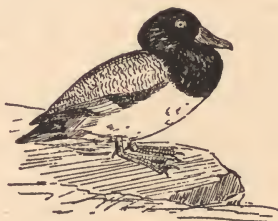
Head and neck chestnut, darkest on top of head and around bill; broad, brownish-black band encircling base of neck; back and wing coverts white, with fine penciling, rump and tail brownish black; below white. Female, light brown on head, neck and breast; back darker; below white, mottled with brownish. Bill black, long, flattish.



### LESSER SCAUP (Bluebill)

*Marila affinis* (Eyton).—15 in.

Head, neck, breast and fore-back black, head with greenish and purplish gloss; back white, with narrow zigzag dusky barring; speculum white; below white, dusky at base of tail. Female, head, neck, breast and upper parts reddish brown, darkest on back and rump; white at base of bill; belly white. Bill bluish-gray, broad, nail black.



### RING-NECKED DUCK

*Marila collaris* (Donovan).—15 in.

Resembles preceding, but back black; white curving up from below in front of wing; bill dark gray, with bluish-white band behind black tip, and narrow, whitish band around base; white on chin; chestnut collar at base of neck; speculum light mouse-gray. Female like preceding except lighter on throat and side of head, white eye-ring and gray speculum.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A large, heavy-bodied sea duck whose name comes from resemblance of back of male to coarse canvas. One of characteristics is *slope of forehead down to the rather flattened bill*. A deep water duck, obtaining food by diving, living largely on wild celery root and pondweeds when in fresh water, and held to be the best table duck. Usually wary, keeping away from shore lines, but tame in Park where fed. Sleeps much in daytime. Large flock often winters on Spreckels Lake.

Midwinter.      Often numerous.      Mostly Spreckels Lake.

Another stocky sea duck, smaller than preceding, of same group but easily distinguished by iridescent *black* head of male, with *greenish* or *purplish* gloss, according to angle of reflection, and *broad* bill and *white speculum* of both sexes. A great diver and bottom feeder, liking open, deep water, but coming into Park lakes in winter. A few nest here. The Greater Scaup also here to some extent, but difficult to distinguish from Lesser, except by its head showing *only greenish* reflection. Darker color of head and neck, and white around base of bill, are good field marks for female Scaups as compared with Canvasback.

Resident.      Uncommon in summer.      Stow and North lakes.

Unless at close range easily mistaken at first glance for Lesser Scaup, but critical observation shows the light band across bill, white chin, and white cross-band before wing of the male; the small bill, white eye-ring and gray speculum identify the female. The chestnut collar is not so easily seen unless close by, and the Lesser Scaup often has a *slight* ring. In midwinter a small band usually may be found on North Lake, its members keeping much to themselves.

Winter.      Uncommon.      Chain of lakes.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### BUFFLE-HEAD (Butter-ball)

*Charitonetta albeola* (Linnaeus).—13½ in.

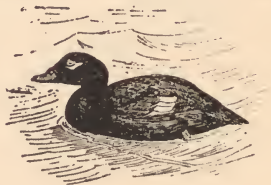
Head, throat and upper neck metallic black except broad, white patch expanding from below eye upward and rearward to nape; back black; wing with two long white patches; below white, running up into collar around lower neck. Female with head, upper neck and back dark brown; white patch back of eye and one on wing. Bill dark, small, bluntly pointed.



### WHITE-WINGED SCOTER (White-winged Coot)

*Oidemia deglandi* Bonaparte.—21 in.

Black except small white spot behind eye and white on middle of wing. Female dusky brown, usually with two dull whitish spots below level of eye, fore and rear, and white speculum. Bill swollen over nostril; of male black and orange, of female dusky. Sea Duck.



### SURF SCOTER (Sea Coot)

*Oidemia perspicillata* (Linnaeus).— 20 in.

White spot on forehead and white triangle on hind neck, otherwise all black, more or less brownish below. Female, dark brown, head darkest; throat and two spots below eye level whitish; white patch on hind neck. Bill of male reddish and whitish, black spot on side; of female grayish and blackish. Sea Duck.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Smallest of the Sea Ducks and the male very striking, with strong contrasts of snow-white and deep black and with sheen of green and purple reflection, in certain lights, upon head and neck. The female is less easily identified, but with its small size, small, pointed bill, white spot on side of head and absence of bright color, can hardly be confused with any other Park duck. A small band usually winters at the southwest corner of Stow Lake, by the feeding station there. Is an expert diver.

Winter.

Not numerous.

Several lakes.

Winters in rather shallow water on San Francisco Bay, where it constantly dives for small shell-fish, but seldom comes into Park, though one or two may wander in occasionally for a short stay. Large size, dark color and *white patch on wing*, thick neck and peculiar bill render identification simple. In winter common along piers on east side of bay.

Winter.

Rare.

Spreckels and North lakes.

The pure white patches in bold relief on head of adult male, coupled with large size, are unmistakable field marks at fairly long range and at short range the peculiarly shaped bill with orange-red and black coloring is additional evidence of species. The female, however, cannot be surely identified at any great distance, the shape of bill and presence or absence of white on wing being difficult to make out under unfavorable conditions. Feeds along shore in surf mostly, but in winter numerous on bay in daytime, often among White-winged Scoters.

Winter.

Casual.

Chain of lakes.

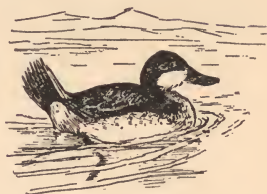


## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### RUDDY DUCK

*Erismatura jamaicensis* (Gmelin).—14½ in.

Male in spring has top of head and nape black, chin narrowly, cheek wholly white; neck, side and upper parts rich chestnut; wing and tail dusky; below brownish silvery. Winter male like female, except cheek white. Female, above dark brown waved with reddish brown; light stripe under eye; below silvery. Tail stiff, up-lifted. Bill short, broad.



### COOT (Mud-hen)

*Fulica americana* Gmelin.—14½ in.

Head and neck black; rest of body dark slate, except brownish on rump, slight white edging to some wing feathers, and white area beneath tail. Iris red. Bill whitish, chicken-like, with frontal shield, dark spot near tip. Feet lobed, greenish.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A small but very stocky, short-necked, spiny-tailed duck, widely distributed, mostly on fresh water, but never in large flocks. Good diver, often diving when alarmed, but slow to get started on wing, spluttering with its feet along the surface for some time and, when under way, usually flying low. Passes large part of day asleep on water, floating about with head under wing and spiny tail pointing upward, showing some white beneath. Toward spring male changes to bright chestnut on back. A few nest in tules in Park.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*All lakes.*

Can be confused with no other Park bird except, possibly, the Florida Gallinule which, however, is smaller, has more white showing in flight on wing and has bill mostly red. The Coot is common on every lake in Park, its head bobbing back and forth as it swims around or walks on bank. Dives a great deal for green weeds or pond roots and likes to do a lot of chattering. Builds floating nests in tules, often in plain sight from lake bank. When newly hatched, bill is orange red and down is blackish, but has fine orange-colored feathers showing through.

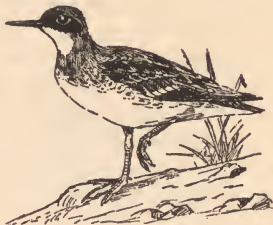
*Resident. Common, more numerous in winter. All lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### NORTHERN PHALAROPE

*Lobipes lobatus* (Linnaeus).—7½ in.

In spring, head and upper parts brownish black; some light brown streaking on back and wing; whitish wing-bar; upper breast and side of neck rich brown; winter, below white, which replaces brown of breast and neck; forehead and black, slender.



### GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL

*Larus glaucescens* Naumann.—25 in.

Mantle (area on back and wing-coverts) and primaries (the long, stiff wing feathers) pearl gray, latter white-tipped; red eye-ring; rest of plumage pure white. Bill stout, yellow, orange spot near tip of lower mandible; feet flesh color. Young, 1st year entirely brownish gray, mottled; in next three years gradually acquires adult plumage.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A very dainty looking bird, with small head and slender neck. Floats lightly, with body setting high on water. Swims about, dabbing to right and left, often turning around in circles, as it gathers from the surface its minute animal food. Usually occurs in small flocks, drifting into the Park from the ocean shore, during migration to and from the far north. As with all Shore Birds, the female is larger than the male.

The easiest to identify of the larger gulls, as plumage is *without black*. Young of first year lighter brown than young of other gulls, and in succeeding years of immaturity primaries and tail are dusky but *not black*; second year shows a little pearl gray on back, much more in next year and attains adult plumage when four years old. Breeds along coast from Washington north, wintering south, not going inland to any great extent.

Winter.

Occasional.

All lakes.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN GULL

*Larus occidentalis* Audubon.—25 in.

Mantle dark slaty gray, primaries black, white-tipped, outer with white spot; rest of plumage pure white. Bill stout, yellow, red spot near tip of lower mandible; feet pale flesh color. Like other gulls, young are grayish-brown, mottled, bill and tail dark; gradually reaching adult state, by fourth season.



### CALIFORNIA GULL

*Larus californicus* Lawrence.—22 in.

Mantle pearl gray; primaries black, white-tipped, two outer with white "finger marks"; plumage otherwise white. In winter head and neck of all these gulls (except the Western) are clouded, mottled or lightly streaked with gray or dusky. Bill more slender, black spot on upper, red spot on lower mandible; feet greenish gray to yellowish.



### RING-BILLED GULL

*Larus delawarensis* Ord.—19 in.

Mantle light gray, lighter than preceding species; bill more slender relatively and with black ring near tip, latter being more yellowish in winter than rear part of bill; otherwise with practically same markings as the California Gull, including red eye-ring.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Back *much darker* than that of preceding species; primaries more extensively black than with other large gulls on this coast, as seen from below; head of adult *remains unspotted* white through winter. Breeds along this coast, especially on Farallon Islands from whence it forages in San Francisco Bay even in nesting time. Very destructive to eggs and young of other sea birds. Does not go far inland.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*All lakes.*

Smaller than preceding and back *light* pearl gray; bill with *orange* spot behind *black* on lower mandible. These field marks demand careful scrutiny and reasonably moderate range to make identification positive. In winter feet are greenish gray. Breeds on interior lakes. Forages inland to some extent and often seen following a plow in fields near coast and feasting on angleworms, mole crickets, mice or other dainties that may be turned up.

*Winter.*

*Occasional.*

*All lakes.*

Though smaller than the California may easily be mistaken for that species unless close enough to observer for a good view of the bill, when the distinct *black* ring near the end of the bill, with the very *light* gray mantle, assist in positive determination. Also much like the still smaller species, the Short-billed Gull, which, however, does not come inland to any extent, and is without the black ring on bill.

*Winter.*

*Common.*

*Chain of lakes.*



# BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

## BIRDS FREQUENTING LAKE MARGIN VEGETATION

### CALIFORNIA GREAT BLUE HERON

*Ardea herodias hyperonca* Oberholser.—46 in.

Head crested, white centrally, black-bordered; chin white, neck mostly drab-gray; upper parts slaty gray, longer wing feathers darker; below streaked black and white; thigh and edge of wing light chestnut; lower neck and back with many plume-like feathers. Legs very long. Bill long, sharp-pointed.



### ANTHONY GREEN HERON

*Butorides virescens anthonyi* (Mearns).—17 in.

Crown black, green-glossed, of rather long feathers sometimes raised into crest; shoulder, most of neck and side of head chestnut; throat and line below eye white;

back and wing bluish to grayish-green; fore-neck and breast streaked, rest of underparts grayish. Bill long, sharp; legs greenish yellow.

### BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON (Quawk)

*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius* (Boddaert).—17 in.

Top of head greenish black; a long narrow white plume extending backward; back black, with greenish gloss, in strong contrast to light, bluish gray of wing and tail; neck and lower parts pale gray to white. Iris red. Bill black; legs yellow. Immature birds more brownish, streaked, brown and whitish.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Very tall when standing erect, being the longest-legged native bird in Park, and when looking for mice, gophers, etc., in open fields is readily noticed. Crooks neck in flying but extends legs straight out behind, unless only flying a very short way; flies with slow motion of wings. Likes to stand in shallow water and spear small fish or frogs coming within range of its long neck and bill. Utters harsh squawks as it rises when startled. Probably nests outside of Park.

*Resident.*

*Uncommon.*

*Elk paddock.*

A small heron, with legs rather short, usually keeping out of sight except when flying from place to place. Feeds along edges of ponds, slow streams, etc., or perches under cover of trees or bushes along banks, squatting down among reeds if a person approaches. Utters clucking notes when startled, or gives hoarse squawks. Nests in leafy tops of stream-side trees.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Reeds, or limb over water.*

Heavily built for a heron, with bill thick in proportion to length. Has a squatty appearance and ordinarily keeps neck shortened down. Feeds mostly at night on same food as other herons; roosts in daytime in thick trees, but sometimes seen feeding in fields or among reeds. Roosts and nests in small colonies, but feeds singly.

*Resident.*

*Rare.*

*Tules or trees around lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### AMERICAN BITTERN

*Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montagu).—24-34 in.

Top of head plain dark brown, feathers of head and hind neck long and loose; upper parts dark to yellowish brown, waved or mottled with dusky; below streaked brown and light buffy; dark stripe on side of neck, throat white. Bill long, sharp-pointed.



### WESTERN LEAST BITTERN

*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis* Dickey and van Rossem.—13 in.

Top of head, back, rump and tail black, with greenish sheen; side of head and most of neck chestnut; under parts streaked white and light tan; wing chestnut, pale

buffy and dusky. Female with head and back brown. Bill long, slender, mostly yellowish; legs greenish yellow.

### VIRGINIA RAIL

*Rallus virginianus* Linnaeus.—9 in.

Above, olive-brown, streaked with black, side of head grayish, upper wing deep cinnamon, rest of wing dark brown; below, cinnamon, except flank dusky and white-barred. Bill long, slender, slightly down-curved, yellowish brown, as are feet.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A very easy bird to identify, by its shape and yellowish-brown color, when once seen. If flushed from rushes, or tules, slowness in getting under way allows time for good observation but, when still, blends with dead grasses or reeds and is difficult to detect; when on alert remains motionless, with bill pointing skyward, and resembles an old stalk or stake, fading from sight if one's eye shifts for a second. Mating call of male is a booming sound, uttered at intervals, giving rise to name of "Pumper" or "Stake driver."

*Occasional.*

*Rare.*

*Chain of lakes.*

So small and shy as seldom to be seen, often sneaking off under cover rather than flying, when surprised. Lives in marshy places, seldom coming out into open in daytime except occasionally at edge of weeds or rushes on bank of pond or slow stream. Is like a small edition of American Bittern except for more contrasting coloration. Feeds mostly at night. Utters short "qua" when startled; mating call a sort of "coo" several times repeated.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*In tules, North Lake.*

Except for length of bill, somewhat like a miniature domestic hen in shape, of general brownish color, dark on back. Feeds mostly at night, keeping among tules, etc., in daytime, but sometimes seen out on mud at edge of cover. Shy, but rather noisy, with a series of what sounds something like grunts of a little pig, and with a monotonously repeated call of *cut, cut, cutta, cutta, cutta!* Though with short wing is a migrant, widely distributed in summer.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

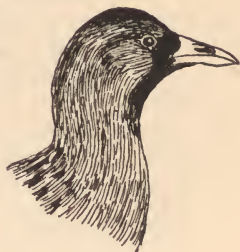
*Lake margins.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### SORA RAIL

*Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus).—8½ in.

Face, throat and middle of crown black; above olive brown mixed with black, back narrowly flecked with white; flank dark brownish, heavily barred with whitish; breast and sides of head and neck bluish gray; belly whitish. Bill greenish yellow, deep but narrow; legs greenish yellow.



### FLORIDA GALLINULE

*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans* Bangs.—13 in.

Mostly dark slate-gray, darkest on head; brownish on back, rump and wing; often whitish on belly; flank, under tail coverts and edge of wing showing some white. Bill chicken-like, but developed into flat plate on forehead, bright red except yellowish tip. Toes long, without web, greenish yellow.



### WILSON SNIPE

*Gallinago delicata* (Ord).—11 in.

In general, mottled, streaked, barred and speckled black, white, brownish and buffy; crown black, with central light buffy stripe; throat and side of head whitish, dark stripe through eye; back blackish, distinctly light-streaked; belly whitish, flank much barred; tail black and chestnut. Bill long, slender, straight; feet greenish-gray.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Except for short bill somewhat like preceding in shape and actions, but *white flecking on back*, and *very olivaceous* tint to upper parts distinguish the Sora on rear view, and the *lead color* of breast and side of neck, with black of face extending down chin and throat (black lacking in immature) make identity positive from front or side. Not so noisy as Virginia Rail and notes more pleasing. Smaller than the Virginia but with larger feet, better adapted for walking on floating vegetation.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Lake margins.*

When swimming, easily confused with Coot unless close enough to show its *bright red bill* and *forehead plate*; does not, however, appear as much in the open, mostly staying at water's edge or walking over floating vegetation, where its long toes are of great assistance. If enough startled to take wing usually flutters along with feet hanging down and soon drops into cover. Has a number of notes, much like some of those of a barnyard hen. Newly hatched young *lack* orange-red coloring of young Coot.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Lake margins.*

Difficult to see *when still*, as its broken colors melt into surroundings, but, if seen to move, the long, straight bill and color pattern of upper parts easily identify it. When flushed flies off in zigzag course for some yards before straightening out or mounting upward, at same time repeating its sharp alarm note. Feeds by probing in soft mud for worms and other animal life, leaving small surface holes that denote its presence in a locality. Nests in mountain meadows, where its court-ing flights and accompanying humming sounds are most interesting to observe.

*Winter. Very rare. Soft, wet meadow or lake margin.*



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### SAN FRANCISCO YELLOW-THROAT

*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa* Grinnell.— $4\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Above greenish-olive, washed with brown, especially in winter; black mask across forehead and through cheek, narrowly bordered behind by whitish; throat and breast bright yellow, whitish on belly; flank brownish; tail olive green. Female without black and color subdued. Both sexes browner in winter. Bill, slender, black.



### SAN FRANCISCO RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

*Agelaius phoeniceus mailliardorum* van Rossem.—8 in.

Male jet black all over except scarlet patch, or epaulet, at bend of wing. In fall and early winter has feathers of back edged with rusty; immature very rusty. Female, blackish brown, streaked with light buffy to whitish, less so in spring; throat pink-tinged; epaulet lacking. Bill and feet black.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Our only *resident* warbler. Lives in tules, thick weeds or bushes on lake margins, keeping much under cover seeking small insects, but often appears if observer makes a squeaking sound. The black mask of the male at once identifies species, but the female may easily be confused with female of other warblers, such as Yellow, Lutescent or Pileolated. Has a pleasant, three syllabled song that is sharp and lively, and also "scolds," a good deal like the Tule Wren.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*North and Middle lakes.*

The scarlet epaulet of adult male is an unmistakable field mark, and, within range, streaking of female distinguishes it from Brewer Blackbird. Epaulet sometimes abnormally yellow. In spring the musical *O-ka-le-e-e* of the male is a cheery note to hear, and the bird hovering, with epaulets fluffed out, is a pleasing sight. Roosts in tules; nests in grass clumps, rushes and often grain fields. In winter forages far afield but returns to tules at night.

*Resident.*

*Scarce.*

*North and Middle lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### BIRDS SEEN MOST OFTEN IN FLIGHT

#### TURKEY VULTURE (Turkey Buzzard)

*Cathartes aura septentrionalis* Wied.—29 in.

Head red, practically bare of feathers; plumage entirely brownish black, slightly grayish on underside of wing. Bill white; feet flesh color.



#### SHARP-SHINNED HAWK (Bullet Hawk)

*Accipiter velox* (Wilson).—10-14 in.

Adult, above dark bluish gray, top of head blackish; below reddish brown, white barred; tail long, gray, with three dusky cross bands, square ended; wing short, rounded. Immature, brownish above, striped, rather than barred, below. Bill short, strongly hooked, dark at tip; legs longish, pale yellow.



#### COOPER HAWK

*Accipiter cooperi* (Bonaparte).—14-20 in.

Practically same as Sharp-shinned Hawk except that end of tail is rounded. With birds of prey female is the larger, so that a large female Sharp-shinned may over-

lap a small male Cooper Hawk in size, when species can only be distinguished by shape of end of tail.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Usually seen only while soaring overhead, probably too high up for red of head to be discernable, but body appears *totally black* against sky; wings mostly black also, but with grayish area, in right light, on underside of flight feathers; primaries noticeably spread at ends while soaring, but tail generally closed. Soars in great circles, seldom flapping wings. Lives on carrion, for which it hunts with wonderfully keen eyesight. Seen over Park in migrations and sometimes swings inward from sea beach.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Soaring.*

Small, but very swift in flight and destructive to small bird life. Likes to perch within foliage of trees, from which ambush it can dart at small birds within range, or even at birds heavier than itself yet which it can carry to perch and devour. Extremely audacious when hungry; known to have seized quail so near hunter that latter secured hawk and victim at one shot. Adult quite handsome but immature brownish and streaked and most often seen. Sometimes seen sailing overhead; difficult to see when motionless in tree.

*Winter.*

*Rare.*

*Mostly among trees.*

Similar to preceding, but on larger scale and destructive to larger birds, chickens, etc. Both sail in circles, this species to rather greater extent, the short wings being used rapidly to give an impulse with which it can sail for some distance at a time. Prefers to perch in higher trees than does preceding.

*Resident.*

*Uncommon.*

*Among high trees.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN RED-TAILED HAWK

*Buteo borealis calurus* Cassin.—19-25 in.

Above dark brown; head streaked and back mottled with fawn; color below varies with individual from almost white to dark brown, usually more or less striped or barred; adult with tail *bright reddish brown*; tail of immature gray. Bill strong, heavily hooked; feet powerful.



### RED-BELLIED HAWK

*Buteo lineatus elegans* Cassin.—18-22 in.

Above dark brown, more or less streaked with whitish and rusty; *shoulder chestnut*, wing elsewhere dusky, *barred* with rows of *white spots*; below reddish brown, lightly barred on belly with white; tail dusky above, gray below, crossed by *four or five white bands*. Bill dusky, with yellow cere; feet yellow.



### DESERT SPARROW HAWK

*Falco sparverius phalaena* (Lesson).—9-12 in.

Crown reddish brown, bordered by slaty blue; two vertical black stripes on side of head; back like crown but black-barred; tail also reddish brown, broad black band near end, white-tipped, two outer feathers barred black and white; wing slaty blue; throat white, rest below tawny to whitish, black-spotted. Female with back, wing and tail reddish brown, barred with dusky; below white, streaked with tawny.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Large as Turkey Vulture and usually seen soaring, but *shows distinct pattern* on underside of wing when within reasonable range; also soars with primaries spread, but while the Turkey Vulture inclines tips *forward* the Red-tail inclines them *rearward* and spreads tail. Sometimes perches conspicuously in tops of tall trees. Varies greatly in color, with age and individually; immatures are heavily streaked below, with thighs barred. Mostly a beneficial bird, preferring ground squirrels and rabbits to birds, as food; seldom attacks poultry. Has a piercing scream.

*Resident. Common, but not numerous. Open spaces.*

A stout, medium sized Hawk, wild and difficult to approach, that lives mostly among trees in willow bottoms. Has short wings and flies rather clumsily, alternating series of rapid wing strokes with spells of sailing. Barring of wing and tail very noticeable in flight. Food consists largely of frogs and mice, but preys on birds to some extent. The California Academy of Sciences Collection contains two immature birds taken here by the Park hunter, in October and January, respectively.

*Fall and winter. Very rare. West end of Park.*

Really a small falcon, with *long, narrow-pointed wings*. Male very handsome in bright, adult plumage, and graceful in movement. Usually perches on post, wire or any point of vantage, but also hovers over open land, posing for a moment and darting to ground to pounce upon prey. Very beneficial, feeding on mice and insects, especially on Jerusalem crickets; has a shrill but cheerful two-syllabled cry, frequently given both in flight and when still.

*Resident. Common. Open spaces.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### BIRDS OF CONIFERS AND HIGH TREES

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK—See page 32

COOPER HAWK—See page 32

#### BAND-TAILED PIGEON

*Columba fasciata fasciata* Say.—14 in.

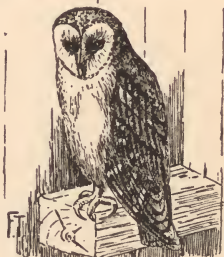
Head and lower parts pinkish gray, head darkest, belly shading to white; back brownish slaty; rump, wing and tail purplish gray, two latter often brown-tinged,

primaries dusky; tail crossed near center by dusky band; narrow white band across hind neck with iridescent greenish below. Bill orange, black-tipped; feet yellow.

#### BARN OWL (Monkey-faced Owl)

*Tyto alba pratincola* (Bonaparte).—17 in.

Back tawny, finely to coarsely lined and spotted with dusky and white, giving appearance of grayish wash; below light tawny to white; specked with dusky; large white disc around each eye, darkening toward center, enclosed by darker plumage narrowing to thin line on throat. Legs long and feathered; bill light colored.



ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD—See page 66

ANNA HUMMINGBIRD—See page 66

#### RED-SHAFTED FLICKER

*Colaptes cafer collaris* Vigors.—13 in.

Head and neck tawny to gray; back and shorter wing feathers brown, narrowly barred with black; rump white; below light fawn to whitish, black-spotted; black crescent across breast; wing and tail black above, salmon-red below. Male with red streak on side of head. Bill long, strong, narrow-pointed. Woodpecker family.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

In size, shape and with cooing notes very much like common barnyard pigeon and with same noisy flapping of wings in flight, resting of head on breast when perching unalarmed and other characteristic actions. Readily seen when perched on top of tall trees, but easily missed if on alert when feeding in oaks. Lives mostly on acorns, berries, wild fruits, some grass seeds, grain, etc. The dark band across tail most noticeable during flight.

*Transient.*

*Very rare.*

*Trees.*

An owl living in holes or dense growths in trees in the wilds, yet often leaving these to abide with man and to occupy his barns, lofts or any dark, accessible places near by. Like all owls, it disgorges pellets of indigestible parts of its food, in which the large numbers of bones of gophers, mice and other rodents prove its usefulness. Easy to recognize by light color and "monkey-face". Has a long, rasping note and also utters a series of clicking sounds. Has nested in Park stadium.

*Rare.*

Conspicuous on account of size and markings and also because of its noisiness. At times it is a vigorous drummer on hard, dead wood, and has several loud and quite characteristic calls. Has a way of bobbing head after alighting on tree or limb. Markings show well in flight, especially from beneath. Fond of ants and grasshoppers and hops clumsily on ground after them. Also eats wood-boring insects, berries, etc. Nests in holes in decayed wood. Troublesome around buildings where it bores through board walls.

*Resident. Common in Park and city. Trees or ground.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### GREATER OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER

*Nuttallornis borealis majorinus* Bangs & Penard.—7½ in.

Brownish gray above, darkest on head, wing and tail; white showing on side of rump; lower parts like back but lighter, with yellowish-white on chin and throat and centrally rearward from breast. No wing-bars. Bill heavy, yellowish beneath; feet black.



### WESTERN WOOD PEWEE

*Myiochanes richardsonii richardsonii* (Swainson).—6 in.

Brownish gray above, darkest on crown, wings and tail; often two slight wing bars of buffy white; below much like back, but lighter on chin and throat and running into yellowish-white on belly. Very similar to Olive-sided Flycatcher, but smaller. Bill flatter and weaker.



### COAST JAY

*Cyanocitta stelleri carbonacea* Grinnell.—13 in.

Head, neck, back, and throat down to upper breast, brownish black; rump and rest of plumage rich dark blue, wing and upper side of tail with narrow black bars

and slightly tinged with purplish. Head with very distinct crest. Bill longish, strong, black; feet black.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Largest flycatcher found in Park, but lacks distinctive markings. Prefers to perch high on trees, preferably coniferous, from which it darts after insects passing near. In spring has a loud, clear, three-toned call with second syllable accented and highest in pitch, somewhat like one call of the California Quail and even more like that of the Baldpate Duck. Has also a monotonous, oft repeated "pil-pil" to be heard at times, but in fall is silent. Distinguished from next species by larger size, heavier bill and white sides of rump.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*High trees.*

A slim flycatcher that sits very erect, usually on some small dead branch well up in a tree, from which it can readily dart after passing insects. When not in motion its somber, unbroken color makes it difficult to distinguish by sight, but its monotonously repeated call, or song, of *pee-wée*, and accompanying movement of head and jerk of tail, serve to attract attention. Its vantage point is usually on the outer edge of the chosen tree and its sallies after prey readily betray its presence during feeding hours.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Higher trees.*

Rather large bird easily identified by *crest*, deep blue coloration and rather long, rounded tail. Claws well adapted for holding acorns, nuts, etc., on stump or limb for splitting open with its bill. Bold but wary and rapidly escapes from sight by short jumps upward from limb to limb toward top of trees; moves on ground by *hopping*. It is noisy, with harsh calls and screeches, yet has a low, sweet song that is seldom heard. Full of curiosity and attracted by unusual sounds. Destructive to eggs and young of other birds and hence mostly killed off in park.

*Formerly resident.*

*Now rare.*

*Trees and bushes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### CALIFORNIA JAY

*Aphelocoma californica californica* (Vigors).—12 in.

Without crest. Top of head, neck, wings and upper side of tail bright blue, richest on head; white stripe over eye; back grayish brown; throat streaked white and dusky, blue of neck running down sides of breast, rest of under parts light gray to whitish. Tail longer than last. Bill longish, strong, black; feet black.



### WESTERN CROW

*Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis* Ridgway.—18 in.

Entirely black, with slight purplish gloss. Bill and feet heavy, strong.



SANTA CRUZ CHICKADEE—See page 70

COAST BUSH-TIT—See page 70

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (Canada Nuthatch)

*Sitta canadensis* Linnaeus.—4½ in.

Head black, except for white stripe over eye back to nape; chin and sides of throat whitish; back and central tail feathers bluish gray; primaries and rest of tail feathers dusky, latter white near tips; below light reddish brown. Female paler, no black on head. Bill black, narrow-pointed.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Slightly smaller and slimmer than last, with nearly same characteristics; voice rather higher, harsher and more vociferous, but has some low, more musical notes occasionally used with young or in company. Screeches vigorously at invaders of its territory; bobs head a good deal; flies by alternately giving a few strokes with its short wings and then sailing a little way. Both jays hide food not needed at moment, generally in ground. Jays *hop*, they do not walk. Also destructive to other birds, hence killed off in park about as fast as any wander in.

*Formerly resident.      Now rare.      Trees, preferring oaks.*

Only one *large black* bird can be mistaken for the crow, and that is the raven, of which none has been recorded from the Park. Crows are common at places along the shores of San Francisco Bay and some wander to Lake Merced and ocean shore, probably only stopping in Park on their way. Apt to perch on tops of trees and easily seen and identified. Often also seen on ground, searching for large insects. Destructive to other birds' eggs and young.

*Transient.              Rare.              High trees and ground.*

Rather difficult to see. Has strong, well-curved claws for clinging to bark of coniferous tree trunks and larger branches, where it travels around, head up or head down, looking for insects. Mostly works high up in trees, its oft-repeated short note, bringing to mind a small toy trumpet, often being the only sign of its presence and hard to locate, the sound having a deceptive carrying quality. When seen, its stocky shape, short tail and its actions identify it as a *nuthatch*, and the white eye-stripe denotes its species.

*Occasional.              Rare.              Conifers.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### SIERRA CREEPER

*Certhia familiaris zelotes* Osgood.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Above rusty brown, mottled with dusky and white except on rump, head and neck darkest; white stripe over eye; whitish to tawny spots and bars on wing; under parts white to grayish; tail long, rounded, the feathers sharp-pointed. Bill long, slender, down-curved.



### VIGORS WREN

*Thryomanes bewickii spilurus* (Vigors).— $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Above plain brown, except tail feathers barred with dusky and wing faintly so; conspicuous white streak over eye; below pale gray, lightest on throat; tail longish, rounded, tipped on under side with grayish white. Bill slender, slightly down-curved.



### WESTERN HOUSE WREN

*Troglodytes aëdon parkmannii* Audubon.—5 in.

Above brown; very faint light stripe over eye; back slightly waved with dusky, wing and tail more so; below light brownish gray, flank more brownish and finely waved; tail rounded, without white. Bill slender, nearly straight; feet light brown.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

The streaked and mottled brown back of this slender little bird makes it difficult to detect against the bark of trees that it frequents, unless seen in motion, close at hand or flying down to the base of a tree and working upward, as is its custom. Has long claws, for clinging to bark, and tail-feathers adapted for bracing itself. *Always works upward* and usually on spiral course, looking for insects on bark. Most easily located by high-pitched call note, something like that of Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Winter.

Rare.

Forest trees.

A busy and friendly little bird, though much given to what sounds like scolding; a good singer with a pleasing song, varied yet always characteristic. As with all wrens, *when in motion* other than flight the *tail is usually uptilted*. May be distinguished from the Western House Wren by larger size, *white stripe over eye* and *whitish tipping to its long tail*, which is broader at end than at base. Found in brush, vines, around buildings, etc., besides conifers and live oaks. Nests in holes, boxes, crevices, any good hiding place.

Resident.

Common.

Trees, brush, vines, etc.

Easily identified as of the Wren family and much like Vigors Wren, but smaller, lighter colored, more grayish brown on back and *without distinct eye stripe*; tail more narrowly ending, shorter and *with no light tipping*. Very friendly; constant and sweet singer from arrival in spring to late into summer. Frequents trees and buildings in Park more than brush or vines. Scolding note is rougher and deeper than that of Vigors Wren and its song less varied. Nests in holes.

Summer.

Uncommon.

Trees and buildings.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN ROBIN

*Planesticus migratorius propinquus* (Ridgway).—10 in.

Head black, back gray to brownish-gray; wing like back, primaries dusky; below mostly rich reddish brown, changing to white at base of tail; chin and throat white, latter streaked with dusky; eyelids and spot before eye white; tail longish, dusky, often slightly white-tipped. Female duller. Bill yellow. Thrush family.



RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH—See page 72

DWARF HERMIT THRUSH—See page 72

### COAST VARIED THRUSH

*Ixoreus naevius naevius* (Gmelin).—9 in.

Above slate-color; conspicuous orange-brown stripe over eye rearward; wing marked with orange-brown spots and bars; below orange-brown, white on belly, flank gray-waved; black crescent across breast; tail slightly light-tipped. Female much paler and marks subdued. Bill dusky, feet yellowish.



### WESTERN GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET

*Regulus satrapa olivaceus* Baird.—3¾ in.

Crown orange, bordered by yellow (except in rear) followed by black and then white parallel bordering, latter just over eye; upper parts, wing and tail gray, with decided green wash; one or two light wing-bars showing; below ashy whitish. Bill black. Female with yellow on crown, but no orange.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Good-sized, sociable bird, found in many parks and gardens in city during winter time. Nests to some extent in Golden Gate Park; *flocks* there in winter. Given to feeding on worms in grassy places, running (*not hopping*) a few steps, stopping to look and listen and darting at worm when located. Fond of toyon and other berries. Often gathers in tops of trees, where the reddish breasts attract attention, toward night settling down with much chatter to roost. First record in Park, 1915. Nest of coarse material and mud-lined. A loud and cheery singer.

*Now resident. More numerous in winter. Trees and lawns.*

A little smaller than yet much like a Robin in form and action but with more striking markings and different habits. Found mostly under or near heavy cover, instead of on open ground or tops of trees. Its field marks make it easy to distinguish from the robin, yet their variation makes it often difficult to see against brokenly lighted background. Food much like that of robin—fruit, berries and ground-living insects, but of sorts found under cover. Has single note song, like combination of whistle and human voice.

Winter

*Rare some years, common others.*

*Under heavy trees or bushes.*

A very small, active bird, with slender, short bill, usually found feeding upon insects on small twigs and leaves, mostly among outer branches of higher conifers or broad-leaved trees. Has habit of *constantly raising wings, slightly fluttering*, as it were, being more active in this way than the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. When quiet not easy to see. Song much like that of Sierra Creeper, weak and high-pitched, but is a *series of notes* instead of one long one. Most apt to be found toward spring, during migration to higher mountains.

Winter.

Uncommon.

High trees.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET

*Corthylio calendula cineraceus* (Grinnell).—4 in.

Upper parts gray, with greenish tinge rearward, rump olive-green; scarlet crown-patch, usually more or less concealed; white eye-ring; white wing-bars; below soiled whitish. Female without crown-patch. Rather similar to Golden-crowned Kinglet except as regards head markings.



### CEDAR WAXWING

*Bombycilla cedrorum* Vieillot.—7 in.

Above grayish-brown to darkish fawn; crested; velvety black band across forehead around through eye, often with white edging; tail shading to black, tipped with bright yellow; chin black; below fawn, yellow rearward; tail and shorter flight feathers often with coral-red, wax-like tips. Bill short, basally wide, blackish; feet black.



### HUTTON VIREO

*Vireo huttoni huttoni* Cassin.—4½ in.

Grayish to greenish olive above; whitish eye-ring, interrupted over eye; two whitish wing-bars; below, paler and more yellowish. Has large eye, eye-ring making it look even larger. Tail rather short; bill with slight hook characteristic of vireos; feet weak, dusky.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Very similar to last, but slightly larger and more grayish. Ruby crown of male apt to be concealed when bird is quiet, but when excited it is brilliantly exposed. More numerous than Golden-crown, tamer, feeds all over trees and bushes and more commonly seen in its diligent search for small insects. Has several characteristic short notes and "scolds" a good deal, but has a pleasing song, often heard in mountains during nesting season and sometimes in Park toward spring, that is remarkably loud for size of bird.

Winter.

Common.

Trees and bushes.

Smooth, soft, grayish-brown plumage, longish wings and short tail, with head conspicuously crested, make this attractive bird easy to identify. An erratic wanderer, it usually is found in small flocks that feed on pepper berries, mistletoe and small fruits, with some insects, often clinging upside-down to branches, like a chickadee. When full of food and undisturbed stays quietly in tree, with but little chatter, but on taking flight the flock goes off in close formation, giving the bird's characteristic and only note in a sort of chorus.

Winter.

Uncommon.

High trees.

The greenest of the California vireos, most apt to be found in oak trees, principally in live oaks. Somewhat resembles the Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but differs in being more stocky, with heavier and somewhat hooked bill; has no bright color on crown and is much less active in movement, though with a similar, but less frequent, flutter of wings. Also its several notes are very different, its song being of two syllables and monotonously repeated. Makes nest of gray moss, very difficult to find, cup-shaped and usually built in live oak.

Resident.

Uncommon.

Mostly oak trees.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### LUTESCENT WARBLER

*Vermivora celata lutescens* (Ridgway).—4½ in.

Above olive-green, yellowish-green on rump; crown-patch orange, but often hidden; no wing bars; below greenish yellow, slightly streaked. Bill slender, dusky. Wood Warbler family.



ALASKA MYRTLE WARBLER—See page 74

PACIFIC AUDUBON WARBLER—See page 76

### TOWNSEND WARBLER

*Dendroica townsendi* (J. K. Townsend).—4½ in.

Crown, cheek and throat black; streak over eye and on side of throat bright yellow; back dull yellow, black-streaked, with greenish effect; two white wing-bars; wing and tail dusky, latter white on inner webs; yellow on breast and sides, latter black-streaked; belly white. Female plainer. Bill slender, dark. Wood Warbler family.



### WESTERN TANAGER

*Piranga ludoviciana* (Wilson).—6½ in.

Adult male with head crimson; wing, tail and middle of back black; elsewhere yellow; yellow wing-bars. Female and immature, greenish yellow to dusky above, with no black; yellow below. Bill and feet gray.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

The earliest to appear of the spring warblers, its presence is most apt to be noted by its song rather than by view of the bird. The green back and yellow underparts are not in contrast to spring foliage and it is motion of the bird that usually attracts an observer's eye. May be mistaken for the Golden Pileolated Warbler, if the black cap of latter is not plainly in view. The song of the latter, however, is much shriller, that of Lutescent being only a slightly descending trill.

*Summer.*

*Occasional.*

*Small trees.*

Contrast in marking makes this a striking bird when once noted, the black and yellow pattern on head, throat and breast of male attracting an observer's eye more readily than does the plainer plumage of some of the smaller birds just mentioned. Cannot well be confused with any other of the Park birds. Often noted in conifers bordering the Shakespeare Garden.

*Winter.*

*Common, not numerous.*

*Conifers.*

The male of this species also is easy to identify, though sometimes, by the very uninformed, mistaken for an oriole. Its plumage is brilliantly patterned in black and yellow, to which is added the eye-lure of crimson. The female and immature are much less easy to distinguish and do somewhat resemble the female Bullock Oriole. Has a characteristic call, once known always remembered, sounding like *prittle-eet*, constantly repeated and readily noted.

*Spring and fall migrant.*

*Very rare.*

*Trees.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### CALIFORNIA PURPLE FINCH

*Carpodacus purpureus californicus* Baird.—5¾ in.

Top of head, rump, throat and breast purplish red, somewhat streaked; back, wing and tail dark grayish brown, more or less washed with red; back and wing somewhat streaked; belly white, unstreaked. Female and young grayish brown, streaked with darker olive-brown, and without red. Bill thick, strong, conical.



### CALIFORNIA LINNET (Western House Finch)

*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* (Say).—5 in.

Adult male with head (except crown and cheek), rump, throat and breast bright crimson; back, wing and tail brown; belly whitish, brown-streaked. Female and immature, without red; brown above, dirty whitish below, streaked with brown. Bill shorter, proportionately thicker than that of Purple Finch.



### PINE SISKIN

*Spinus pinus pinus* (Wilson).—4½ in.

Streaked all over brown and whitish, darkest above; bright yellow showing on middle of wing and on basal part of tail, which has end deeply notched. Sexes about alike, but female duller. Bill brown, sharp-pointed; feet dark.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Rather difficult for beginners to distinguish from the California Linnet, but red color of adult male is darker than that of Linnet and covers *entire head*. Also tail of this species is more deeply notched than that of Linnet and bill is heavier and rather larger; the female is more streaked and with *olivaceous* dusky, with *cheek darker brown*. Call notes and song differ considerably. Song of Purple Finch is of a very pleasing *rolling* character; that of Linnet is more a trifling chatter.

*Winter.*

*Common.*

*High trees.*

Somewhat smaller than California Purple Finch, adult male lighter red and female lighter brown, both sexes with narrower streaking; tail almost square ended. Song quite different from and, though cheery in character, far less musical than that of Purple Finch; often sings or chatters during flight. Linnet prefers lower country and likes to be around buildings, in gardens, etc., becoming relatively tame in such surroundings, nesting on porches, window sills, vines—almost anywhere. Both finches live largely on tree buds, fruit and other vegetable matter.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Not particular.*

In size and many actions resembles goldfinches, but easily distinguished by *entire streaking of head and body* and by *yellow on wings and tail* (more noticeable in flight). Mostly seen flocking in tree tops, spreading over lawns when dandelions are ripe, or circling around in flocks. Utters constant twittering call, and flock taking wing gives characteristic *buzzing* note. Feeds on buds, catkins, dandelions, etc.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*High trees or ground.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### AMERICAN RED CROSSBILL

*Loxia curvirostra minor* (Brehm).—6 in.

Adult male, dull gray, heavily overlaid with dull red to orange-red (young male with coloring more mixed); wing and tail blackish. Female greenish-gray to yellowish. Bill dark, upper and lower parts much curved, and crossed near tip.



### POINT PINOS JUNCO

*Junco oreganus pinosus* Loomis.—5½ in.

Male with slaty-black hood in sharp contrast to reddish brown of back and wings and to white of lower breast and belly; side and flank pinkish buff; primaries and tail dusky, latter with white on two outer tail feathers. Female grayer and duller. Bill pinkish white.



## BIRDS OF GROUND, GRASS-LANDS OR BUSHES

### CALIFORNIA QUAIL

*Lophortyx californica californica* (Shaw).—10 in.

Male with short, black, forward-curved plume on head. Forehead light grayish, top of head dark brown; throat black, white-bordered; neck speckled on back and side; back, wing and tail brownish; breast bluish gray; belly fawn, centrally chestnut, feathers black edged, with scaly effect. Female plainer, throat light drab, below whitish. Bill short, thick, strong.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A very stocky bird, with distinguishing feature of having sharp-pointed, curved mandibles crossed near end, enabling bird to nip seed out of pine cones, etc. Generally seen in flocks on conifers, its stockiness, peculiar coloration, peculiar bill, and action making it easy to identify.

Winter.

Rare.

Coniferous trees.

Can hardly be confused with any other genus, when adult, but juvenile plumage is *without black* and is *streaked*. Three subspecies of Junco might be found in the Park in winter, but field identification of individuals is so difficult that the Point Pinos is the only one here considered. Most likely to be found under or near coniferous trees, but feeds largely on ground near good cover, the white on outer tail feathers showing vividly on bird taking flight. A few pair breed in Park.

Resident.

Not numerous.

Under trees.

Most popular, one of the handsomest birds in California and easily recognized. Regularly fed each evening at certain Park barns. Has several calls besides an alarm note; the gathering signal is usually emphasized on the second of its three notes, yet often on the third; in spring male perches near nest and gives at intervals a single call; alarm note is short and often rapidly repeated from two to six times in rapid succession if danger threatens. Nests on ground and young are able to run and hide as soon as dry.

Resident.

Abundant.

Throughout Park.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### KILLDEER

*Oxyechus vociferus vociferus* (Linnaeus).—10½ in.

Above brown; some white on forehead and back of eye; chin, collar and lower parts white, with two black bands across breast; wing black, with white bar; rump and base of tail cinnamon, latter black with some white showing. Wing long, pointed; bill short; leg grayish brown. Plover family.



### WESTERN MOURNING DOVE

*Zenaidura macroura marginella* (Woodhouse).—12 in.

Mostly brownish; top of head bluish gray, forehead fawn; neck iridescent, with black spot on side, chin whitish; above grayish brown; some small black spots on wing; below light brown, pink-tinged on breast. Closed tail long, pointed, outer feathers short, wide basically when open, showing white tipping. Bill bluish gray, feet pink.



### NORTHERN BURROWING OWL

*Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea* (Bonaparte).—10 in.

Above brown, spotted with white or buff; below white, strongly barred or spotted with brown; warm brown predominating in general appearance; white line over eye. Leg long, scantily feathered.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Often seen on lawns, where it seeks worms and insects among the grass. A rapid runner and very noisy, tame yet wary, taking flight at close approach of an observer and uttering shrill but plaintive shrieks of *kill-de-e-e-r!* *kill-de-e-e-r!* many times in succession, the first syllable being very short. When its nest is approached it gets much excited and more noisy than ever, but soon quiets down and the female tries to draw observer away by feigning a broken wing, and doing other tricks. Nests on ground in slight depression.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Grass-lands.*

One of our daintiest birds, whose gentle, sweet, yet mournful cooing is so commonly heard in spring and summer in the San Francisco Bay Region, is only too rare in the Park. Its connection with the pigeon family is easily recognizable and its long, pointed tail and small size readily identify its genus and species. Has mincing sort of walk, never hops, and its flight is swift and wonderfully graceful. All of its actions are of gentle nature, and its food is daintily gathered. When alighting, tail plainly shows white on outer feathers.

*Except winter.*

*Rare.*

*Open ground.*

A small owl that nests and largely lives in squirrel or other holes in ground. Often to be seen in *broad daylight* perched on mound at entrance to burrow or hunting grasshoppers, crickets, etc., in grass. On a mound or post stands very erect on its relatively long legs and has habit of bobbing or bowing, but frequently noted in entrance to burrow, drawing down head as observer approaches. Has several queer-sounding calls and chuckles. Has been recorded at the Presidio and vicinity of Lake Merced.

*Resident.*

*Doubtful if now in Park.*

*Open lands.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### SAY PHOEBE

*Sayornis sayus* (Bonaparte).—7 in.

General plumage grayish brown; top of head dark; under parts lighter than back, changing to tawny rearward. Tail and

longest wing feathers blackish. Bill and feet black. Flycatcher family.

### CALIFORNIA HORNED LARK

*Otocoris alpestris actia* Oberholser.—7 in.

Above light brown, more or less pinkish on fore parts, streaked with darker; forehead yellow, with black bar above forming horn-like tuft over eye; black area extending across bill, through eye

and on cheek; throat bright yellow; black shield across breast. Female and winter male duller and less marked. Bill and feet black.

### INTERMEDIATE WREN-TIT

*Chamaea fasciata fasciata* (Gambel).—6½ in.

Brown to grayish brown throughout; darkest on head and neck; above more grayish; below lighter, more cinnamon-brown, throat and breast slightly streaked with darker; iris white; tail longer than body, rounded, central feathers distinctly longest, always up-tilted. Bill and feet brown.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Readily distinguished from the Black Phoebe by its grayish-brown color and want of definite markings other than blackish primaries and tail feathers. More slender than that species, with longer wing and rather stronger flight. Sometimes hovers a little, looking for insects on ground. Prefers more open places than Black Phoebe, but of rather similar habits except for building nest of cobwebs and light material instead of mud. Call note sweeter and rather plaintive.

Winter.                      Rare.                      Perches on buildings, posts, etc.

A bird of open land that does not hop but *walks*, swinging its tail as it steps. Name results from horn-like tuft of feathers on head of male, much less prominent in female. Contrast of black on head, breast and outer tail feathers makes identity easy. Usually in flocks. While quiet and on alert crouches among lumps, stones or grass tufts and difficult to find until flushed, when flock wheels around and soon lights again. Has characteristic sharp call, faint but audible at some distance. Has weak, pleasant song, in spring often given while on wing.

Winter.                      Rare visitant.                      Grass lands.

The wren-tit resembles both wrens and tits in general way, but with certain characteristics not found in either, hence placed in family by itself. Almost entirely confined to California. Attracts attention by its peculiar, high-pitched, staccato whistle, same note being repeated several times slowly and then rapidly running into a trill, with little or no variation in pitch. Has also a low, sort of purring note oft repeated as it moves about bushes, mostly down near ground. Tail usually kept closely folded but pointing upward.

Resident.                      Rare.                      Recorded near Dutch windmill.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN WINTER WREN

*Nannus hiemalis pacificus* (Baird).—4 in.

Rich brown, brighter than either House or Vigors Wren and smaller. Brown all over, but rather grayish on belly; wing, flank and belly finely waved or barred with dusky, tail very short, more distinctly barred. Bill slender, short; feet brown.



### WESTERN BLUEBIRD

*Sialia mexicana occidentalis* J. K. Townsend.—7 in.

Male, above deep rich blue except chestnut on middle of back; throat blue; below chestnut, changing to gray on belly. Female, above dull grayish blue, wing and tail bluest, brownish wash on back; breast and sides pale reddish brown. Young like female, but streaked with whitish. Bill and feet black.



### PIPIT

*Anthus rubescens* (Tunstall).—6½ in.

Above dark, somewhat grayish brown, light line over eye; below light brown or buffy, narrowly streaked with dusky on breast and side; outer tail feathers white, conspicuous in flight. Bill slender, dark; feet brown. Wagtail family.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

*Smallest and richest brown as well as darkest of our wrens. A shy bird, frequenting deep-shadowed places. Would pass unnoticed except for its great activity. Tail very short and usually pointing upward at sharp angle with back. In spring has sharp, high-pitched song, reminiscent of squeaking of a belt on very small high-speed pulley. Prefers to be near water, among roots of big trees or under dense shrubbery.*

*Winter.            Very rare visitor.            Near Dutch windmill.*

Very attractive bird, hardly to be confused with any other species if size and field marks are carefully considered. Feeds in open spaces but perches high, as a rule. Often seen hovering over fields in search of food and diving gracefully at crickets, grasshoppers, etc. At times eats berries, especially mistletoe. Has a characteristic call. Gathers in flocks in winter, usually associated with Audubon Warblers.

*Winter.            Rare.            Trees near open spaces.*

A slender, inconspicuous inhabitant of open lands, bare or covered with short grass; when quiet difficult to detect against broken background of clods, stones or grass tufts. Walks with dainty step, moving head forward and backward with each foot motion and moving tail up and down but not in unison with step. Usually feeds in scattered flock. When alarmed the whole flock rises from ground, with white on tail flashing, wheels in erratic flight with pleasant whistled note, to settle down again not far away.

*Winter.            Common.            Open fields.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN MEADOWLARK

*Sturnella neglecta* Audubon.—9 in.

Above brown, streaked and barred with black and buffy; light stripe centrally over crown and one over eye; below mostly bright yellow, lighter rearward, with some dark spotting on side, black crescent across breast; tail short, outer feathers mostly white. Female duller. Bill strong, dusky above; feet light brown.



### ENGLISH SPARROW

*Passer domesticus* (Linnaeus.)—6 in.

Head gray, reddish brown area behind eye; back and wing brown, black-streaked; throat and breast black, rest of lower parts dirty whitish; two wide white wing-bars. Female without black below. Bill thick, black; feet brown.



### CALIFORNIA BREWER BLACKBIRD

*Euphagus cyanocephalus minusculus* Grinnell.—9 in.

Male glossy black all over, with purplish sheen; iris white. Female greenish dusky above, brownish gray below; iris

brown; tail long, slightly rounded. Bill sharp-pointed, black; feet black.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A stocky bird with short wing and short, rounded tail that spreads fanwise and shows white margin on taking flight or alighting. Also a dweller in open fields and meadows, the male strikingly colored. A most cheery songster that sings the year around, its strong and musical song characteristic, but varying somewhat with the individual. Lives largely on injurious insects, but in winter, when insects are scarce, apt to pull up a little sprouting grain and often unjustly condemned.

*Resident.*

*Rare.*

*Grass-lands.*

Easily recognized by its stocky proportions, clumsy-looking hops as it feeds on ground and its noisy quarrelsomeness. Also it is the only sparrow in Park heavily *marked* with reddish brown and black. An introduced bird, now a pest, inimical to other bird life and very prolific, building bulky nests, around buildings by preference, and raising several large broods each season.

*Resident. Very common. Wherever people congregate.*

The only bird in the Park that might possibly be mistaken for this species would be the male Red-winged Blackbird, and then only when the red wing-mark is not visible. Female of latter species is *streaked*, whereas the *Brewer female* is *unmarked*. May be noted walking about lawns, in search of insects, or flying out to rushes in middle of lake. Generally nests in trees, but sometimes in tules in lakes. After nesting season likes to roost in flocks in high trees or to perch on telegraph wires. Has characteristic, shrill call.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Grass-lands or chain of lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

GREEN-BACKED GOLDFINCH—See page 78

### SAN FRANCISCO SPOTTED TOWHEE

*Pipilo maculatus falcifer* McGregor.—7½ in.

Head, upper parts, throat and breast black; iris red; conspicuous white spots on wing, especially in flight; below white centrally, side bright cinnamon. Female with head brownish-black. Immature dark brown above, light brown below, dusky-streaked. Tail black, end with large white area. Bill black; feet black.



### YAKUTAT FOX SPARROW

*Passerella iliaca annectens* Ridgway.—6¾ in.

Above deep brown, tail more reddish than back; breast and belly white, distinctly marked with dark, reddish-brown spots like up-pointed arrowheads, with these more bunched on breast. Bill heavy, conical; feet brown.



### WESTERN CHIPPING SPARROW

*Spizella passerina arizonae* Coues.—5 in.

Above mostly brown, top of head bright reddish-brown, back streaked with blackish, rump ashy gray, whitish stripe over

eye, black line through it; below light ashy gray. Young streaked below. Bill dusky above; feet dark brown.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Easily identified by its contrasting markings, its long, round-ended tail and habit of scratching, with its well adapted feet and long claws, among dead leaves for seeds and insects. Never found far from bushes or some sort of heavy cover with good scratching ground beneath, and often noted in flight from bush to bush. Male likes to perch near top of bush and constantly repeat a two-syllabled, sort of trilled song, the first syllable being short and faint and the second long drawn out. Has also a rather mewing note. Never flocks.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*In brush.*

Somewhat like the Hermit Thrush, but darker, more heavily built, with distinctly heavy bill and much browner spots on breast. Also a great scratcher under brush, digging among fallen leaves with a sort of "rocking horse" motion and making litter fly behind. In northern summer home has a sweet, rollicking song, but in winter only short, sharp call notes. Often numerous in Park, at other times scarce, depending on food conditions. Other subspecies, difficult to determine, sometimes also present.

*Winter.*

*Common.*

*Brush.*

A small, slender, inconspicuous bird very common in the San Francisco Bay region but scarce in Park. Feeds largely on ground under trees and, with feet not well adapted for scratching, moves about a great deal in search of food, soon leaving one spot and flying to another near by. When alarmed flies to lower branches of trees. Besides a short, sharp call note has a shrill song, incessantly repeated, like the buzzy trill of an insect of the locust family.

*Summer.*

*Not numerous.*

*Open spaces near trees.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### GAMBEL WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

*Zonotrichia leucophrys gambelii* (Nuttall).— $6\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Adult with wide white stripe over crown and one over eye joining it on nape; black stripe each side of crown and one from eye rearward; above gray, heavily brown-streaked on back; two white wing-bars; below very light gray. Immature with black and white replaced by dark and light brown, respectively. Bill and feet light brown.



### NUTTALL WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli* Ridgway.— $6\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Very similar to Gambel Sparrow, except white stripes narrower, bill light yellow, edge of wing yellowish, bird more brown-

ish and of darker shade generally. Coloring of immature also similar to preceding, but darker.

### GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW

*Zonotrichia coronata* (Pallas).— $6\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Head of adult with broad golden-yellow crown stripe widely bordered with black; upper parts dull, grayish brown, back streaked with black; wing with two white-spotted bars. Immature with head dull brown finely streaked with dusky, slightly yellowish on forehead. Bill dark above, yellowish at base; feet light brown. Sexes alike.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A friendly bird that nests north of the United States but spends the winters with us, arriving in this region about the end of September and always flocking, alone or with the Nuttall Sparrow. Not easily distinguished from latter by appearance only, as it differs chiefly in having *wider* white stripes on head and lighter general coloration than the Nuttall. Both have a similar faint call note (tseep!), but the songs are decidedly characteristic when learned, that of the Gambel Sparrow being the more elaborate.

Winter.      Not abundant.      Open spaces near brush.

Similar to above species, but white head stripes less prominent, bill more yellowish and general shade of plumage darker. Also feeds on ground, scratching considerably. Flocks in colonies that remain distinct. Many of these birds are resident, and so tame as to feed on bread crumbs, etc., at the feet of people who offer them food. Constant singer, in summer singing occasionally in the night, its song mostly consisting of a moderately long sibilant note, a second of same length a fifth higher, followed by several repetitions of a short intermediate note.

Resident.      Many colonies.      All suitable places.

In habits and appearance rather similar to Nuttall Sparrow, but head of adult with *wide crown-stripe* of *golden yellow*. Immature without definite stripes on head. Somewhat larger than preceding species. Song consists of three descending notes with intervals of a third, sounding like "Oh, dear me!", heard most frequently during wet weather and hence bird often popularly called the "rain-bird". Nests in far north and winters here, arriving in early autumn, some few remaining in state until late in May. Abundant in many places in this region.

Winter.      Not numerous.      Ground near bushes.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### BIRDS OF WILLOW THICKETS

#### ANNA HUMMINGBIRD

*Calypte anna* (Lesson).— $3\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Adult male with crown and gorget metallic rose red (black from rear view); back, rump, and middle tail feathers metallic green; below grayish green, wing and outer tail feathers dusky. Female without gorget; green above, including middle tail feathers; below gray, sides green-washed. Bill black, long, very slender.



#### ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD

*Selasphorus alleni* Henshaw.— $3\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Adult male with gorget crimson; top of head and back metallic green, tail and lower parts reddish brown, white on breast. Female bronzy green above; tail rufous and green, tipped with black and white; throat dusky spotted; partly whitish below with reddish brown sides. Bill black, long, very slender.



#### WESTERN BELTED KINGFISHER

*Megaceryle alcyon caurina* Grinnell.—13 in.

Above gray-blue, head with loosely feathered crest, white spot in front of eye; white collar around neck; below white except gray-blue band across breast. Female same, but with chestnut band below blue one, and some chestnut on flank. Tail and primaries black, with some white barring. Bill long, heavy, straight, mostly black.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

*Largest and only resident hummingbird in San Francisco Bay region. Hummingbirds have a long, very slender bill, with a very extensible tongue for probing into flowers after honey; have habit of hovering on buzzing wings and are the only birds that can fly backward. In spring male towers high in air and dives with extreme swiftness, showing off before female, who builds nest and takes entire care of young. Has several slight clicking notes and squeaky song. Often perches on twig. Eats honey, sap and small insects.*

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Throughout Park.*

Smallest bird in Park and first summer visitor to arrive, reaching here by second week in February. Easily distinguished from Anna by smaller size, *more coppery red of gorget and reddish-brown of tail and underparts*. Has same general habits as Anna, but there are recognizable differences in notes, curve described while "towering" and sound made by buzzing wings, all characteristic of species. May be mistaken for Rufous Hummingbird during early spring, as positive field identification of the two species is mostly impossible. Hummers build tiny cup-shape nests of plant down, with moss and lichens outside.

*February to September.*

*Common.*

*Throughout Park.*

Easily identified by relative size of head and bill, peculiar color and markings, rattling call when flying, shortness of leg when seen on perch and its action in securing food. Selects stub or dead limb, with free flight-way over water, for perch and dives with splash after small fish, returning to perch to swallow victim whole. Frequently changes to another perch, giving its harsh, rattling call as it flies, alternating a few slow with a few rapid wing-beats. Sometimes hovers and dives from air. May be noted at any season, but probably not nesting in Park.

*Resident.*

*Uncommon.*

*Lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WILLOW WOODPECKER

*Dryobates pubescens turati* (Malherbe).—6 in.

Black and white, except narrow scarlet fringe on nape of male. White stripe over eye around nape and one below eye back to nape; middle of back white; wing with rows of white spots; below white; outer tail feathers white, slightly black-barred. Bill and feet black.



### SIERRA RED-BREASTED SAPSUCKER

*Sphyrapicus varius daggetti* Grinnell.—9 in.

Head, neck and breast crimson; back and wing black, white-spotted, rump white; diagonal white bar across folded wing; belly light yellowish; tail black, except white down center. Bill dark gray; feet gray. Sexes alike.



### BLACK PHOEBE

*Saturnis nigricans* (Swainson).—6½ in.

Like all flycatchers, with slight, raisable crest. Head, back, neck and throat black, this coming down to and forming an inverted V against white lower parts. Wing and tail dull black, whitish on edges of wing feathers and outer web of outer tail feathers. Bill flat, basally wide, feet black. Flycatcher family.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Woodpeckers climb up and back down tree trunks in their search for insect food, tapping vigorously with strong, chisel-like bills and bracing themselves with the short, stiff, pointed feathers of tail. The Willow is the smallest native woodpecker. Has characteristic cry. Drums out signals to its mate by rapid tapping with bill on dry, resonant wood, drumming most vigorously when a person disturbs it from its nesting cavity in a decayed limb.

*Resident.*

*Uncommon.*

*Willows.*

Easily identified by its woodpecker form and habits, and the extent of crimson on head, throat and breast. Drills horizontal rows of small holes in bark of trees to cambium layer, to drink the sap and eat insects that collect in them, sometimes girdling and killing a tree. These holes leave scars for many years, even in rapidly growing trees. Does not make much sound while tapping the holes and its drumming signals are more irregular in character than those of Willow Woodpecker.

*Winter.*

*Uncommon.*

*Chain of lakes.*

Bill typically flattened, with bristles at base. Selects advantageous perch from which to dart after passing insects, usually returning to same perch, preferably well up from ground. Each bird, or pair in nesting time, seems to have its own hunting area, around two or three favored perches; likes to be near buildings. Builds mud nest under eaves, bridges, or in any protected place. Has small song and monotonous, two-note call, oft repeated. Its black hood and white breast make identification easy.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Many places.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN FLYCATCHER

*Empidonax difficilis difficilis* Baird.— $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Brownish-olive above; yellowish, brown-tinged, below; inconspicuous except for light eye-ring and two light wing bars. Bill flat, dark above; feet brownish dusky.



### SANTA CRUZ CHICKADEE

*Penthestes rufescens barlowi* (Grinnell).— $4\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Head and throat dark brown, except for white patch on cheek, back dark chestnut; underparts light grayish; tail and wing gray. Bill blackish, short, stout; feet lead-blue.



### PACIFIC COAST BUSH-TIT

*Psaltriparus minimus minimus* (J. K. Townsend).— $4\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Very small-bodied; plain gray all over, with more or less brownish tinge, darkest on head, lightest below; plumage rather fluffy; tail longer than body, narrow. Bill short, black; feet black. Titmouse family.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

So unobtrusive and somberly colored as to escape notice were it not for its activity in search of food and occasional jerking of tail when perched, a habit common to all small flycatchers. Keeps mostly in shadowy places, flying out after winged insects coming within range. Has an oft repeated song, of three parts, and a call note, both characteristic and easily recognized. Nest delicately built of green moss, cobwebs, etc., and the cream-colored, brown-spotted eggs are beautiful when fresh.

*Summer.*

*Uncommon.*

*Shade, near water.*

A stocky little bird is the chickadee, renowned among bird lovers for its cheery call of "chick-a-dee-dee!", its friendliness to man and its acrobatic activities in search of the insects on which it lives. Usually keeps in small flocks, feeding along from tree to tree, clinging, upside down as like as not, to leaves and small twigs, fearless even within a few feet of an observer. In winter keeps company with kinglets and other small birds of similar feeding habits.

*Resident.*

*Very common.*

*Willows, oaks, conifers.*

One of the few birds of *unmarked, solid color* and one of our *smallest bodied*. Except during nesting time, found in flocks of several families banded together, which go hunting through trees for larvæ, scale and other small insects. When one bird flies to another tree the flock straggles after, feeding mostly among outer twigs and keeping up a gentle twitter. Builds long, bag-like nest of soft stuff, camouflaged with lichens and feather-lined, with tiny entrance near top.

*Resident.*

*Very common.*

*Throughout Park.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### PACIFIC RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH

*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata* (Nuttall).— $7\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Above deep russet-brown; light buffy eye-ring; throat and breast light, warm buff, with wedge-like, dusky spots pointing upward; belly whitish; flank plain brownish. Bill dark above, light below; feet light brown.



### DWARF HERMIT THRUSH

*Hylocichla guttata nanus* (Audubon).—7 in.

Olive-brown above; throat and breast very light buffy, heavily marked with dark up-pointed, wedge-like spots; belly whit-

ish; light eye-ring; tail reddish-brown, contrasting with black. Bill black above, lighter below; feet light brown.

### CALIFORNIA SHRIKE (Butcher Bird)

*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* Ridgway.—10 in.

Top of head, hind neck and back bluish gray; black stripe across forehead back, through eye, to neck; wing and tail black, former with white patches, and latter mostly black above and white beneath, outer feather entirely white; rump white; under parts plain whitish. The above markings make strong contrasts. Bill black, stout, distinctly hooked; feet black.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

A shy bird, keeping mostly under cover and more often heard than seen; never flocks. *Back and tail* with little, if any, contrast. Mostly feeds on ground upon insects, but also eats berries and some fruits. Nests low, in dense growth. Has a beautiful, somewhat bell-like song or whistle of ascending notes, mostly heard in morning and evening. Also several call notes—a soft short, whistled *qwoit!* a longer whistled crescendo, "*kou-ée-ee*", and one or two minor calls.

Summer.

Common.

Near lakes and willows.

In habits and appearance much like preceding species but smaller, back more *olive-brown*, tail more reddish, in noticeable contrast to back and wings; *throat and breast* lighter and more heavily spotted. Song of similar character to that of Russet-backed Thrush, but given in short phrases, the pitch of which is frequently changed. Occasionally heard in this latitude as spring draws near. Has a call note very similar to that of preceding species.

Winter.

Common, not numerous.

Dense shrubbery, or nearby.

A stocky, short-winged bird, that flies mostly near the ground, showing conspicuous field marks. Uses post, dead limb or fence wire for lookout, from which it makes sallies upon mice, large insects, lizards, even small birds, diving from its perch with a low swoop. Called "Butcher Bird" from its habit of impaling victims not at once wanted upon thorns, barbs of fence wire, etc. Nesting record from near Lake Merced.

Fall and Winter.

Rare.

Open land near brush.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### WESTERN WARBLING VIREO

*Vireo gilvus swainsonii* Baird.— $5\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Above gray, olive-washed; without eye-ring, but with dull, light stripe over eye; no wing-bar; below white, tinged with yellowish. Bill dusky above; feet gray.



### CALIFORNIA YELLOW WARBLER

*Dendroica aestiva brewsteri* Grinnell.— $4\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Top of head, bright yellow; rest of upper parts greenish-yellow, below bright yellow, breast and sides narrowly streaked with chestnut; wing and tail rather dusky, feathers yellow-edged, yellow patches near end of outer tail feathers. Female paler, streaking slight. Bill dark, slender; feet light brown.



### ALASKA MYRTLE WARBLER

*Dendroica coronata hooveri* McGregor.—5 in.

Winter plumage: upper parts mostly grayish brown, somewhat streaked, crown-patch (mostly concealed), rump and spot each side of breast bright yellow; below whitish, brown-washed, streaked; throat

white; three outer tail feathers with white patches near end. In spring brown streaking replaced by black; yellow spots brighter. Bill black.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Deliberate in actions and rather hard to see, as mostly stays high up in trees, but is an incessant singer and can be located by sound more easily than by sight. Song a sort of rolling warble, rather shrill but pleasing. Has also one or two call notes. Absence of wing-bars and eye-ring, and only mark a light stripe over eye, distinguish it from other vireos. Bill heavier than that of any of the Warbler family.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Chain of lakes.*

The brightness of yellow of this species, shrillness of song and quickness of actions serve well to identify the male, but the female is less easy for a beginner to separate from the female Lutescent or Pileolated Warbler, though lighter in color than either. A very active bird, feeding along from tree to tree, looking for small insects and constantly giving a sharp little song. As with all warblers, the bill is slender.

*Summer.*

*Common.*

*Near lakes.*

In habits and appearance very similar to Audubon Warbler, the principal difference being that the throat is *white* and that only *three* tail feathers show white areas, whereas the Audubon has *yellow* throat and *four* or *five* tail feathers *with white* showing. For further description see next species.

*Winter.*

*Rare.*

*Near lakes.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### PACIFIC AUDUBON WARBLER

*Dendroica auduboni auduboni* (J. K. Townsend).—5 in.

Like Alaska Myrtle, except throat bright yellow and five outer tail feathers with white patches. Both species with white patches on wing. Toward spring marking is much brighter, black streaking and black on upper breast and on flank very strong. Female duller. Bill and feet black.



### GOLDEN PILEOLATED WARBLER

*Wilsonia pusilla chryseola* Ridgway.—4¼ in.

Male with black crown-patch and bright yellow forehead, otherwise bright greenish yellow above; below bright yellow.

Female and immature duller in color and black cap often absent. Bill dark above, light below; feet brown.

### PACIFIC BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

*Zamelodia melanocephala capitalis* (Baird).—7 in.

Head, cheek and chin black, narrow tawny stripe on side of nape; back mottled black, tawny and white; rump, throat, collar and lower parts tawny or orange-brown, latter centrally lemon yellow; wing and tail with white patches, yellow under wing. Female lighter, duller, slightly streaked below. Bill heavy, conical, black. Finch family.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Commonest of our winter warblers. Has five yellow spots—crown, rump, throat and one each side lower breast, whereas preceding species has throat white. Females in winter and immatures often difficult to distinguish. Male adult in spring has heavy black markings on breast, black streaking above instead of brownish, and more brilliant white and yellow showing. Makes frequent sallies into air, flycatcher fashion. Flight irregular and zigzag. Call note a sharp "tsip". Fairly good song, seldom heard in winter. Sometimes feeds on ground.

Winter.

Very common.

Willows, high trees.

A very brightly colored and very active bird in its hunt for insects among the foliage of shrubs and trees, and hence rather easily noted. Black cap of male is a good field mark, but not always seen from below if bird is at rest. Has sharp song, like that of Yellow Warbler but not so shrill. Female, with black cap hidden or absent, might be confused by beginner with Yellow or Lutescent Warbler. Call note a sharp "tchip".

Summer.

Common.

Around lakes.

Has so many field marks that it is easy to identify. One of our best singers, with song something like, but sweeter than, that of Robin. Sings from tree top, often in flight, on nest, as male assists in incubation, or any place except when on ground, where it sometimes feeds. Young birds have a soft, sweet whistle. Immature males have markings between those of adult male and female. Fond of fruit and often does damage in orchards. Also eats butter, etc., around camps.

Summer.

Uncommon in Park.

Middle Lake.

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### LAZULI BUNTING

*Passerina amoena* (Say).— $5\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Adult male with head, neck and back turquoise blue, latter sometimes brown-washed; breast cinnamon, rest of lower parts white; wing and tail blackish brown, wing with white bar; tail tinged with

blue. Female and young: grayish brown above; rump light bluish; below light brown, to whitish on belly. Bill and feet dark. Finch family.

### WILLOW GOLDFINCH

*Spinus tristis salicamans* Grinnell.— $4\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Male, in summer plumage bright canary yellow; forehead, wing and tail black, two white wing-bars; tail with white at end. Female, brownish-olive above, yellowish below, throat brightest; wing and tail dusky, wing-bars grayish. In winter male also brownish. Young browner. Bill and feet light in summer.



### GREEN-BACKED GOLDFINCH

*Spinus psaltria hesperophilus* (Oberholser).—4 in.

Male with black cap, back olive-green; wing and tail blackish, former with white area in middle, latter with white near base; under parts greenish yellow. Female duller, more grayish above. Bill dusky; feet brownish.





## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Adult male can hardly be confused with that of any other Park species, the nearest possibility being the Western Bluebird which, however, is darker in color, without white marking and considerably larger. The *white belly* and *prominently white wing bar* of the Lazuli Bunting are easy field marks. Absence of striking marks in female and young make identification more difficult, but these are much smaller than Bluebird, *lighter below* and have *wing-bars* showing. Incessant singer throughout day, with rather shrill song.

*Summer.*

*Very rare.*

*Brush or small trees.*

Adult male in spring is very attractive, with bright coloring and with pleasant, lively song; has also a characteristic twittering song, given while fluttering over nest, and also some call notes. In appearance so like the domestic variety as to be called by many people "Wild Canary." In winter plumage is largely rich brown in place of yellow, but *always with light wing markings*. Flocks. Flight undulating, alternating a few wing-strokes and then dipping with wings closed. Bill typically finch-like.

*Summer.*

*Occasional.*

*Willows.*

Also much like tame canary. *Darker than Willow Goldfinch* and with much less distinct markings; top of head entirely black in adult male; white on wing fairly conspicuous, especially in flight. In winter both sexes duller. Habits much like preceding species, but song more like that of tame canary. Feeds on seeds of composite flowers, such as thistle, dandelion, etc., bending head over swaying plants to get seed. Song and call notes when flying very characteristic.

*Resident. Very common. Willows, ground and high trees.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### LAWRENCE GOLDFINCH

*Spinus lawrencei* Cassin.— $4\frac{1}{4}$  in.

Male with face, throat and fore part of head black; breast with yellow area; wing blackish, some yellow showing; tail blackish with white showing in flight; rest of plumage gray. Female duller, without black on head. Bill of male pinkish, feet brown; bill of female dusky above, light below.



### SANTA CRUZ SONG SPARROW

*Melospiza melodia santaecrucis* Grinnell.— $5\frac{3}{4}$  in.

Mostly rich, dark brown above, black and gray-streaked, central gray stripe over crown, some black lines on gray of side of head; below white, with black-streaking, dark spot on breast. Wings and tail short, latter up-tilted. Bill dusky; feet brown.



## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

Easily recognized as of Goldfinch group, and combination of *black face* and *throat* with distinctly *gray* body color makes the male easy to identify. The gray and yellow of the female is also distinctive, but not so prominent. Flight of same character as of above goldfinches. Song rather weak, but characteristic; call note is low and tinkly. A very irregular bird in its appearance in a locality, often not showing up for two or three years in succession, though perhaps abundant the following year.

*Summer.*

*Rare.*

*Willows.*

Friendly little bird, to be found in damp places or around thick bushes. Easily identified by combination of being *streaked* with black both *above* and *below*, central streaks running to form a spot on breast, and tail uplifted. Feeds mostly on ground, scratching among litter under bushes or in damp places. Good singer, with typical song that yet varies with individual. Might be confused with Lincoln Sparrow, but latter smaller, rather different shade of coloring and not yet recorded from Park. Never flocks.

*Resident.*

*Common.*

*Under brush or in damp place.*

## BIRDS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### INTRODUCED SPECIES ON STOW LAKE

#### BLACK SWAN\*

Of very large size; plumage black, feathers ruffled; bill red.

#### MUTE SWAN\*

Very large. Entirely white except for black at base of bill; black lump at base of upper mandible, rest of bill pinkish orange.

#### WHISTLING SWAN

Very large. Plumage white; bill and feet black.

#### WHITE PELICAN

Very large. Plumage white. Bill very long, with large pouch below.

#### CANADA GOOSE

Large. Mostly gray, but head and neck black; white band from cheek across throat.

#### HUTCHINS GOOSE

Medium size; field marks similar to last.

#### CAACKLING GOOSE

Much smaller, but similar to above.

#### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE

Medium size. Brownish gray; white around base of upper bill, belly mottled with black and white spots or bands.

#### LESSER SNOW GOOSE

Small. White except black tips to wings; bill reddish, with black on side; feet reddish.

#### PEKIN DUCK\*

White. Bill and feet reddish to yellowish.

#### MUSCOVY DUCK\*

Very dark, brownish and greenish, with metallic sheen; wing with large white patch. Bill bright red, with ridges and carbuncles.

\*Not native.

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Letters following names of birds indicate mode of occurrence:

R, permanent resident; W, winter resident; S, summer resident;

O W, occasional visitant, winter; O S, occasional visitant, summer;

Sp, spring visitant; F, fall visitant.

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